



State of Delaware
Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation
89 Kings Highway
Dover, Delaware 19901

Council on Greenways & Trails
Wednesday, January 30, 2013
09:30
Meeting Minutes

Kent County Administration Building, Room 220
555 Bay Road, Dover, DE 19901

Welcome & Introductions

Ms. Diane Wilson, acting Chairperson, and Sussex County Council Representative, called the meeting to order at 9:35am. She invited members and visitors to introduce themselves and identify their group affiliation or agency.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Ms. Wilson asked for a motion to approve the September 26, 2012 minutes. Mary Everhart moved to approve minutes with corrections. Peggy Koster seconded. Motion passed.

Trail & Pathway Initiative Project Summary

The following projects in planning, progress, and/or completion were presented in power point format; a summary and status was provided for State Park and local projects. The power point is available to any Council member that wishes to view it for further review.

- (a) Auburn Heights - Matthew Chesser - planning & design
- (b) Newark Pomeroy Trail - Charles Emerson - complete
- (c) Milford Mispillion Riverwalk - Bob Ehemann - complete
- (d) Ocean View - West Park Pathways - Bob Ehemann - complete
- (e) Thompson Island Preserve - David Bartoo - complete
- (f) C&D Canal - David Bartoo - progressing
- (g) Northern DE Greenway Trail - Matthew Chesser - planning & design
- (h) White Clay Creek State Park - David Bartoo - planning & design
- (i) City of Newark - Redd Park Trail System - Charlie Emerson - progressing. Charlie acknowledged Jim Ireland and the Trail Spinners for providing over four thousand volunteer hours in constructing this trail.
- (j) Buena Vista - Ken Darsney - Historical & Cultural Affairs - almost complete
- (k) Lums Pond - David Bartoo - progressing
- (l) Gordons Pond - Cape Henlopen - David Bartoo - progressing
- (m) Trap Pond State Park - David Bartoo - progressing
- (n) Assawoman Canal - Bob Ehemann - design & construction
- (o) Trail Count Data - David Bartoo - data count ongoing
- (p) Bike Friendly State Report Card - Michael Krumrine

- Governor Markell pushed an initiative that Delaware should improve bike safety. Delaware has improved, from a ranking of 18 in 2011 to 10th place in 2012 over the 50 US States. Delaware was however, sighted for being the least safe place for bicyclists in the country statistically.
- Bicycle Council has prepared several educational awareness programs to introduce into the Driver's Ed school system and to State Troopers and police enforcement.

Churchman's Regional Trail Plan – Jonathan Husband, NCCo & David Hunt, DE Greenways, Inc.

David Hunt reviewed the geographic area – roughly Airport Road to Fair Place Station –that is the subject of the proposed Churchman's Regional Trail Plan. Delaware Greenways and New Castle County's Special Services Department have partnered and are proposing a planning project to define bicycle and pedestrian networks for the area with high traffic and commercial properties. Hunt said he and Jonathan are seeking partners with whom to coordinate for support and outreach in developing this project. Strength comes from partners, he said. The team plans to apply to WILMAPCO for a Unified Work Program for a planning grant to develop the Churchman's Regional Trail Plan. DelDOT's Planning Section supports the proposed plan.

David and Jonathan asked for the Council on Greenways & Trails' endorsement to their Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) application. UPWP falls under WILMAPCO's planning efforts; if approved by WILMAPCO, the plan will move forward. An application will be tendered in March.

After discussions, Diane Wilson asked for a motion to write a letter in support of the Churchman's Regional Trail Plan project securing funds from UPWP. Mary Everhart moved and Jim Ireland seconded. Motion passed.

DTF Trail Grant Review - Robert Ehemann

Bob Ehemann thanked Gail Van Gilder, Anthony Aglio, and James Ireland, the Grant Review Committee, for evaluating the trail application submission. Grant Review Committee recommended:

Sponsor	Name	Type	DTF Request	Committee Recommendation
City of Lewes	Georgetown to Cape Trailhead	Acquisition	\$250,000.00	\$148,000 to \$250,000
City of Rehoboth Beach	Canal Dock and Launch	Design & engineering plan	\$22,227.00	\$22,227.00
Town of Ocean View	Assawoman Canal Trail - Phase 1	Design & engineering plan	\$230,000.00	\$230,000.00

Discussions on the City of Lewes project continued as follows:

- Mark Chura - I am here representing the Greater Lewes Foundation - as it relates to the Lewes grant. With all that information [presented to the Council], have all those issues been resolved, at least with the information sent?
- Ehemann - said the last information he requested of Lewes [supplemental to the DTF application], arrived 6:00 p.m. last night [January 29] and has not been reviewed. Information and recommendations formed by the Grant Review Committee were based on the application and other supplemental information requested and received prior to January 29.

- Chura - Are all issues resolved? At least, according to the attorney, the question you had related to the easement and that is actually on the road map.
- Ehemann - Yes, with exceptions, based on information that we requested and has been submitted.
- Charlie Emerson - Is this only for the acquisition in Lewes? What is the status of the rail line continuing west? Are there any more acquisitions required there?
- Ehemann - The rail line is state owned.
- Emerson - So we are clear to Georgetown?
- Chura - Yes, absent encroachments, which there are numerous on the rail line.
- Susan Moerschel - The first phase of the Georgetown to Lewes to Cape Henlopen Trail (GLC Trail) project lies inside Lewes located from Savannah Road to the Lewes & Rehoboth Canal. We expect the Junction & Breakwater Trail to someday join the GLC Trail at Monroe Avenue specifically at the parcel for which Lewes seeks DTF acquisition assistance.
- John Martin - Have all grant application questions been answered, has the cost been resolved?
- Chura - The acquisition in total - this is always presented and done, even with conversations with the Department going back over a year - related to just the DNREC piece, the answer is yes. Just to put it in context, the total acquisition was \$2.5million. It was always anticipated that, the trailhead and library would be co- located; it is a bit complicated. The notion is that the trailhead is a standalone and DelDOT has made the commitment to make improvements on the trailhead parcel.
- Dawn Hopkins - That is why the Library is being constructed.
- Chura - From a construction point, the library is its own entity and the trailhead is its own entity, but then it makes sense to coordinate construction on both projects. Hopefully both the library and trailhead open at the same time, including the Georgetown-Lewes-Cape Trail. We [Lewes] have always talked about a \$250,000 grant from the start.
- Jim Ireland - When we were reviewing the project application, we had questions about the parking requirements for the library and open space requirements for the library.
- Chura - And you can appreciate this, actually, what we submitted in the application was not that plan, because it does create confusion but we can go back to it. This actually helps. The library [building and parking] requires three acres. There have been discussions with the Division of Libraries, and in fact, [the proposed Lewes Library] is approved by the Division of Libraries and added to its budget. Land acquisition for the library will be accomplished this year from the State's Capital Budget if Division of Libraries requests those funds. Basically, where they are at right now, there may be some tweaks to the plan because we are only in the conceptual stage; but the library will take three acres. 1.3 acres [DTF application request] was recommended by a DelDOT consultant [for trailhead access]. There is no question that the 1.3 acres, that has been defined here, will actually be the exact location of the trail head. As we talked about, how many spaces and those kinds of things [to be incorporated in the trailhead] have yet to be determined. We have some ideas, but I do not think there has been a consensus on this.
- Emerson - Will the trailhead be maintained by the City?
- Chura - The City, in order to meet the deadline by the owner, borrowed money to buy this.
- Hopkins - DelDOT still has to work with and meet with the City to discuss the design and the number of trailhead parking spaces. None of this has been decided yet and no meeting has occurred.

- Ehemann to Ireland - Does this answer your question regarding open space?
- Ireland - I still do not know where the library is going to be within the property and what, if any, open space is required for the library.
- Chura - This is not that kind of issue with the library. Remember, this is City Owned property. Understand there is a 0.5 acre addition to this that will be considered open space.
- Ehemann - Were Lewes' regulatory requirements met?

Chura - Yes. What consultants laid out in the site conceptual plan [for the library and trailhead] does meet all the city requirements as it relates to parking, setbacks, and anything else that needs to be done. There is a little bit of extra land - .38 acres - there will be roads with open space to the left, there is an outbuilding that will be reused as a sitting area. [Green spaces] tie directly to Stango Park on the other side [north side of rail line]. As this is built, Stango Park and this new open space will begin to merge together.

- Ireland - From the Grant Review Committee's review, the Town of Ocean View - Assawoman Canal was a great project. The City of Rehoboth's DTF proposal was a good project. Regarding the City of Lewes project, the Committee felt that there should be some contingencies on this project to make sure that the DTF grant is not buying open space, parking spaces, road access or other infrastructure needed for the library. We would like for the Division of Parks & Recreation to make sure of these concerns/issues. If the library changes in size and dimension or in support requirements, the trailhead acquisition site [assisted by DTF grant funds] should not be impacted or converted for library related functions.
- Chura - I request your review. If asked the question prior, I would then rephrase to say the 1.3 acres that would be improved by part of this tactic would be the 1.3 acres that becomes the trail. Anything else is irrelevant to this committee in this request. It is the Division of Libraries responsibility for the City of Lewes to raise additional private funding. And that is the sense; it is really a co-located facility understanding that each piece has its own integrity, if you will.
- Hopkins - When DelDOT has spoken with the City of Lewes, no design for the library had been presented. We really cannot say how many trailhead spaces are necessary at this time.
- Chura - We did meet with Drew Boyce on this. There continues to be a suspicion that somehow the trailhead will be built on open space for the library. It has been abundantly clear that that is not the case. I am not sure where this concern continues to rise. It has been stated by the Mayor, the Council, and others that this is not the case. Again, we are promoting, walkable, bikeable communities. It is frustrating because there is no issue here, and frankly we came in, you did send us questions that we answered. I am a bit surprised that we are still debating whether or not this is a legitimate project.
- Moerschel - We are not debating the merits of this project. From our Division's point of view, this is a legitimate project that can receive DTF assistance. There are questions, however, that this Council has; responses should be offered. Understand that supplemental information we requested [of Lewes] that was received last night has not yet been evaluated.
- Chura - In terms of 1.3 acres [trailhead] and making sure that is from an acquisition stand point, the location of the trail and it is not supporting the library, that is what I am specifically saying.
- Emerson - The parking required and projected in the site concept plan for the library itself, does it meet the towns' requirements?
- Chura - It does.

- Ireland - My concern is that we are basing decisions on a conceptual plan. This Council does not want to recommend DTF grant assistance for anything that is less than concrete.
- Chura - The plan is not exactly conceptual, it is beyond that. Maybe that is where we are misunderstanding each other. The purpose of that plan, if you noted on the application, was not the kind of layout for the structure of the library would look like necessarily. What was done, we said we have a certain square footage that we would like to build that requires X amount of parking spaces to meet the requirements of the City of Lewes. [The library layout was developed] before going to the Division of Libraries for that program's funding. The plan is really more of a space planning issue to make sure we meet all the codes. I do not want you to view this as though it is a broad conceptual grant from a design stand point. It was done as a space planning effort to make sure that if the City bought 3 acres on behalf of the library and the Division of Libraries was paying half that, then 3 acres would meet all of the regulatory requirements. You cannot do it any other way.
- Ireland - I am recommending that Division of Parks & Recreation evaluate all materials, including those sent by Lewes last night, and other information that may be needed to determine what is absolutely needed for the library and for the trailhead. Our review process is done to make sure that there is no overlap between the area needed for the future library and the trailhead.
- Chura - If it does, it would not go into the 1.3 acres that is subject to this grant. And you can certainly make that a condition on this grant.

Diane Wilson asked for a motion to accept and approve the DTF Trail Grant applications. Jim Ireland made a motion: The Council accepts the Grant Review Committee recommendation to approve the Rehoboth and Ocean View DTF applications, and, that the Grant Review Committee approves the Lewes Trailhead application contingent upon the Division's detailed review of the Lewes trailhead project as it relates to the proposed library site requirements. Charlie Emerson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Summary – Kendall Sommers

Kendall gave an update on the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan research (SCORP). This five-year planning document looks at statewide outdoor recreation participation and needs. The SCORP report is complete but technically still in draft form awaiting approval from Governor Markell.

Trail Gap Analysis – Kendall Sommers & Mike Krumrine

Outdoor recreation inventory and spatial modeling are items included in SCORP. In the past, SCORP used GIS modeling, buffer analysis and census data to look at who was being served, what portion of the population was served, and what demographics of the population were being served by the different recreational resources.

ESRI's Network analyst is an extension of ArcGIS often used by business's and the industrial sector to determine where to build new stores, distribution warehouses and facilities based on population distribution and road networks.

The software can also be applied to parks and recreation planning to provide a broader picture of who is truly being served by recreational facilities. Park planners can use the software to identify areas where the population is already adequately served, and areas that are not served. This allows planners to determine where future park facilities could be best located to reach the maximum number of people.

Parks has contracted with Azavea - a GEO Spatial company located in Philadelphia that specializes in GIS modeling. Parks is currently working with Azavea to develop network analyst models that will help accurately determine service areas for existing recreational areas and determine where "recreation desserts"

exist. The models will also determine the best location to make future recreational investments to reach the maximum number of underserved individuals. The new models are capable of looking at different modes of travel including driving, bicycling, walking and public transportation and look at demographics data including age and race.

Kendall continued her discussion on SCORP highlighting issues and recommendations - by the SCORP development and technical advisory committee. From the discussions, six top issues stood out:

- Improving public health
- Getting children outdoors
- Getting accessible recreation for all
- Partnerships for conservation, recreation, and tourism
- Protecting lands for conservation and recreation
- Statewide trails and pathways

Each of these six topics has its own subsection. Within SCORP, a pullout booklet, designed as a handy seven-page document discussing just trails and pathways is available.

National Recreation Trail Nominations – Avery Dunn

Due to time constraint - did not discuss project.

Announcements

- Diane Wilson - asked that Council meetings begin on time to end on time.
- 2013 Meeting Dates – May 1, September 18, December 11
- National Trails Day, June 1, 2013. Activity information is available at <http://www.americanhiking.org/national-trails-day/>
- DNREC's Capital Improvement Program Hearing will be held February 28 at 10am. Susan Moerschel said Secretary O'Mara has encouraged this Council and others interested in recreational trails and pathways to attend the hearing and make remarks in support of trails. DNREC is asking \$3million for State Park Trail improvements. If Council is inclined to come forward to speak on behalf of DNREC, we would appreciate support. Ms. Moerschel offered her assistance with preparing and drafting comments.
- Matt Chesser said in addition to trails, there is also a request for \$3.5million for State Park rehabilitation. These funds go to projects like community connections, trailheads - restroom amenities, bike racks, matching funds for grant, and many others. State Parks has also recommended \$700,000 for trails at Auburn Heights.
- Wendel Cassel - Gave an update on the trail connecting PA, DE, & MA to the tri-state Mason-Dixon corner-marker. The trail is four miles in length, three miles in PA and one mile in DE. The delay in obtaining approval from PA for this trail was because PA & DE had dissolved the bi-state advisory council until the Friends Group was reorganized in Pennsylvania. Members from the PA Regional State Park Office will come to DE on February 12, 2013 to approve the PA part of the trail.
- This year is the 250th anniversary of the starting of the Mason-Dixon survey (1763) - several programs planned for this celebration.

Adjourn

Diane Wilson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. John Martin made a motion and Peggy Koster seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:43pm.

Meeting Attendance

Appointed Members

Wendel Cassel

Charles Emerson

Mary Everhart

James Ireland

Peggy Koster

John Martin

Diane Wilson

Agency Members

Dawn Hopkins, DelDOT

Kenneth Darsney, DOS

Guests

Mark Chura, Chura Associates

David Hunt, Delaware Greenways

Jonathan Husband, NCCo., Dept. of Special
Services

Division of Parks and Recreation

Dave Bartoo

Matthew Chesser

Avery Dunn

Bob Ehemann

Michael Krumrine

Susan Moerschel

Kendall Sommers